GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:34
ANSWERED ON:25.02.2015
ONLINE COURSES
Hari Shri G.

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to launch free online courses by premier institutes such as the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and the Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) in the country and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether a nominal fee is proposed to be charged for various online courses and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether any special dispensation is being proposed for persons with special abilities and those belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

(SMT. SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

Part (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (c) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 34 ASKED BY SHRI G. HARI, HON'BLE MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT REGARDING ONLINE COURSES.

(a) & (b) Madam, under National Mission on Education through Information and Communi- cation Technology (NMEICT) scheme, apart from other activities, creation of e-content for the benefit of students and learners has been undertaken. More than 800 courses in various disciplines in engineering and science are available on-line under National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning (NPTEL). E- content for 8 undergraduate subjects has also been generated by the Consortium of Educational Communication (CEC) in collaboration with its Media Centres. Over 100 Virtual Labs in 9 Engineering & Science disciplines, comprising about 770 experiments are currently ready for use and available. 1500 Spoken Tutorials are available on line and more than 200 courses for design have been created.

Further, IIT Madras along with its NPTEL partners and NASSCOM have run, three Massive Online Open Courses (MOOCs) of 10 weeks each. IIT Madras is offering certification on successful completion of the course and nominal fee for online examination and certification is charged. Similarly IIT Kanpur has conducted five Online Courses with certification of 4-5 weeks duration. IIT Bombay has offered twelve MOOCs so far. Further, the Ministry is ready with SWAYAM (Study Webs of Active-Leaning for Young Aspiring Minds) Platform for MOOCs.

(c) Presently there is no proposal on this.